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Story & photo by  
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"God helps those who help themselves," is often said, but sometimes it is a hard concept to define.

Yet the sentiment in these words can easily apply to hard working, dedicated and talented Spc. Ryan S. Bible, a preventive medicine technician with Company E, 27th Main Support Battalion, Division Support Command.

Bible, 27, will earn a direct officer's commission as a second lieutenant in the Army and will work as an environmental officer. He holds a bachelor of science degree in environmental science from Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio.

Bible will report to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio Jan. 21 for the eight-week Officer's Basic Course, then he will attend the eight-week Officer's Health and Safety Course, also at Fort Sam Houston.

After he completes those two courses, he will report for duty at the Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (North), Fort George G. Meade, Md.

A native of Coshocton, Ohio, Bible joined the Army to pursue both his interest in the military and his love of the environment.

"I'm very patriotic, so the thought of

being in the military was very intriguing to me. I wasn't a stranger to firearms and those types of things. I grew up in a rural area that was very agricultural, and I spent a lot of time outdoors. I love to hunt and fish. I love the environment."

As a preventive medicine technician, he teaches classes in environmental health, field sanitation and safety. He also inspects the dining facilities to ensure that the food is prepared correctly and that its preparation is conducted in a clean environment, he said.

"We inspect water and water transportation equipment like water buffaloes to be sure the equipment is safe to transport the water in."

"We're basically responsible for anything that would cause a soldier to get sick. We try to prevent the illness before it happens," Bible said.

"When I met him this past November, he already seemed like he had been promoted and was wearing that lieutenant bar. As a lieutenant, you carry yourself differently, and he definitely fit that mold," said Sgt. 1st Class Lincoln R. Mitchell, first sergeant, Company E, 27th MSB.

While he had always wanted to become an officer, he did not participate in the Reserve Officer's Training Corps while in college. Bible became interested in the direct officer commission program as a way to become an officer after he had enlisted in

the Army.

For Bible, persistence paid off with a hefty direct deposit.

"My application process started a little over three years ago, shortly after I got to the Cav. The Environmental Science Officer who was working here then put me in touch with his branch (career field) and they've helped me for three years to attempt to apply, to apply, and then finally to get accepted. I have also had a lot of support from my chain of command."

Bible said that acceptance into the direct commissioning program is highly competitive.

"It is degree dependent. They are looking for people in a variety of fields, particularly the biological sciences, who have specialized skills. Usually, you have to have a master's degree and a few years experience working in the field," he observed.

For those soldiers who may be interested in learning about the direct officer commission program, Bible suggests calling the Army's Personnel Command and the Army's Recruiting Command or looking at their web pages.

Bible will be involved in research into establishing future Army policy on a variety of occupational health issues while working at the Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (North).

*Soldier takes 'direct' route to officer ranks*



Spc. Ryan S. Bible, preventive medicine technician, Co. E, 27th MSB, 1st Cav. Div., inspects the Army's new water trailers for cleanliness.